



California Emergency Management Agency

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Cal EMA Ranked 1st by *Security Magazine's Top 500 Rankings*

Security Magazine ranked Cal EMA 1st overall in the "Federal/State/Local Government" industry sector category, as published in its November 2009 issue.

Security Magazine, a monthly publication geared toward security executives, focuses on the management issues facing top security professionals in both the public and private sectors.

Security ranked the top 500 security public and private organizations by various industry sectors. This year's survey included assessments in 16 key sectors, such as

Banking, Education, Finance, Government, Healthcare, Information Technology and Transportation. The ranking methodology was based on information from several sources, including data supplied directly by the organizations and data obtained through public resources and records; 42 federal, state and local government agencies from throughout the United States and Canada were ranked.

For 2009, California ranked ahead of neighboring governmental entity Arizona Department of Emergency Management (ranked 8th).

Additionally, California ranked higher than the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) (ranked 9th).

"California's receipt of the highest ranking in this survey is just one reflection of the dedication, hard work and commitment of our emergency managers and homeland security professionals" said Secretary Matthew Bettenhausen "This recognition is an honor, and serves as a confirmation that emergency response in California is recognized locally, nationally, and globally. It substantiates the fact that

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Secretary Bettenhausen shares his thoughts on personal diligence and the future of Cal EMA

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UYCC Offers A Better Way for At Risk Teens

Teens participating in the San Bernardino National Forest Association Youth Conservation Corps (UYCC) are discarding colored bandannas and droopy pants in favor of hard hats and hiking boots. Funded by the Cal EMA CalGRIP, 20 at-risk youth receive job training, educational enrichment, and a stipend while working in city parks and the trails and hill-sides of the San Bernardino mountains.

Lead by Sandra Bonilla and Bobby Vega of the UYCC,

and working in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service, these young adults can be found in the mountains constructing fire breaks, maintaining trails, planting trees, or performing habitat restoration. The City's Parks & Recreation Department also provides job training and teaches arborist skills necessary in any modern city.

Youth enter CalGRIP with little previous opportunity to participate in meaningful activities, are often apathetic toward education, and in

dire need of positive influences. The UYCC gives them membership with a positive organization and redirects their energies in ways that benefit the community instead of detracting it. Instead of criminal or wasteful activity, these young people are working hard to improve the urban environment.

For more information about the CalGRIP Program, visit www.calema.ca.gov or the Urban Youth Conservation Corps at www.sbnfa.org/.

Cal EMA and Santa Clara County Put the right dogs on the job!

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Make Diligence A Holiday Tradition

These next few weeks will be especially busy for each of us as we review our annual accomplishments and plan for the upcoming New Year, both personally and professionally.

Personally, this past year has been exciting and challenging. First and foremost, I am thankful that Governor Schwarzenegger selected me to lead the California Emergency Management Agency in the state's effort to protect and prepare our residents for any emergency they may face. This appointment is an honor, and frankly, humbling. I am not alone in this effort, as each person employed by Cal EMA has willingly dedicated their entire professional, and much of their personal time, towards this very worthy mission.

During this time of reflection and thankfulness, I would suggest that most Californians consider diligence a part of their lifestyle and traditions. We no longer forsake the importance of preparing ourselves and our communities for any event that may threaten what we

hold most dear: our families, our lifestyles, and our livelihoods.

Globally we have witnessed recent attacks against retail shops, hotels and entertainment venues by al-Qaida, its affiliates, and those inspired by al-Qaida. These groups continually demonstrate an interest in targeting commercial and other retail facilities. Although the Federal Homeland Security advises there are no specific threats or credible information indicating terrorists plan to attack such facilities here at home during our holiday season, public awareness is always vital in preventing crime and keeping the general public safe.

Diligence – it's as simple as the phrase "if you see something, say something". An unattended backpack, suspicious behaviors and unusual incidents all warrant contact with a security officer at the shopping center. And while you are cognizant about your surroundings, know that the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation and

State and local first responders are working together to implement measures that help all of us prevent, reduce and to mitigate the potential or impact of any attack.

These efforts are ongoing, and will continue into the future through the strategic use of Federal Homeland Security grants here in California. Cal EMA will continue to bolster our first responder community and help dedicate proper funding to projects that will enhance our overall safety and security.

Even though California remains a high-risk state, the strategic investment of Homeland Security funds, and the continued diligence of those who make this beautiful state their home will ensure California remains a vibrant place to live and to thrive.

From all of us at the California Emergency Management Agency, I hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving!



"Jerry and Smaya can detect more than 19,000 different explosive odor combinations."

**-Sergeant Michael Saliba
Santa Clara County Sheriff's
Department**

Jerry the German Shepherd and Smaya the Labrador are two immigrants who recently joined the ranks of the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office as part of their innovative explosives detection canine unit.

According to Sergeant Michael Saliba, Jerry and Smaya can detect more than 19,000 different explosive odor combinations.

Sergeant Saliba was one of a number of participants who went to Israel in 2007 as part of a test program with the California Emergency Management Agency. This innovative program uses two dogs per handler as opposed to the traditional one dog, one handler system. Jerry and Smaya received explosives detection and counter terrorism training in February of 2007 in Israel, along with Sgt. Saliba.

The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department is one of just a handful of organizations in the country using this model. Sgt. Saliba explains why he feels this system is more efficient, ultimately saving the Santa Clara Sheriff's Department money in the long run. "Most dogs become tired and ineffective after about a half hour or 45

minutes of work. Jerry and Smaya take turns, so when one gets tired the other is ready to go". A school or office that would usually take two hours to search with one dog can be done in half the time.

A bomb detection search often requires police and sheriff's departments to reach out to neighboring jurisdictions to use their canine bomb detection units, which can take time and potentially take resources away from those jurisdictions. Sgt. Saliba also says the cost savings come into play by getting twice the work for roughly the same cost as the traditional one dog-one handler system.

Jerry and Smaya are both certified by the California Narcotics and Explosives Canine Association and are available to assist other police agencies requiring extra security measures to safeguard dignitaries or the general public.

For more information about these wonderful dogs visit Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department on the web at www.sccgov.org/.

Cal EMA Test Program Assist Locals Implement Two-Dog Bomb Detection Model

California-Baja Border Regions Strengthened Through Emergency Response MOUs

On October 20, 2009, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Baja California Governor

José Guadalupe Osuna Millán met at the Sacramento Capitol and signed a Memorandum of

Understanding (MOU) to continue to build upon their cooperative efforts on important issues in the California-Baja California border region. Specifically in the agreement, they commit both states to work together in the areas of economic development, commerce, tourism, environmental protection, border crossings, security and civil protection, health, renewable energy and agriculture.

During this meeting, Secretary Matthew Bettenhausen and Baja California State Department of Civil Protection Director Alfredo Escobedo Ortiz also signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Bi National emergency prevention and response between the two Border States. In this agreement, both states intend to cooperate and share information to effectively reduce the risk of, and respond to, threats to the public health, safety and welfare of their border communities and offer ongoing support for training programs for law enforcement officials in Mexico.

To learn more about these collaborations, visit <http://bit.ly/91uP0U>.



Governors José Guadalupe Osuna Millán and Arnold Schwarzenegger commit to strengthening the California-Baja Border Region

Chesbro's AB 486 Eliminates Complications in Disaster Declaration Process

The law has long been complicated regarding when a local Board of Supervisors or City Council must review and renew a local disaster declaration.

As a result of Assemblyman Chesbro's Assembly Bill 486, which was recently signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger, local Boards and Councils will only have review local declaration once every 30 days until the emergency is terminated. The bill eliminates the complicated current

distinction between a local governing body that meets weekly and non-weekly, and the current 14 day period for renewing declarations.

The bill, which goes into effect January 1, 2010, received strong legislative and local government support.

Assemblyman Chesbro, who represents parts of the north coast, believes the new law will reduce some administrative and financial burden on local governments.

The law still requires a local disaster declaration that is signed by public official, like the local emergency director, to be ratified by the governing body within seven days. And, the City or County must terminate the disaster declaration at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

For more information about AB 486 visit www.leginfo.ca.gov.

Cal EMA Welcomes Code 3 For A Cure to Sacramento

How far would you go to spread the word about the importance of cancer screenings? If you're retired Santa Ana firefighter and three time cancer survivor Lorenzo Abundiz, you would go as far as you needed to in order to educate people to save their lives.

Abundiz is founder and President of "Code 3 for a Cure" - a non-profit organization dedicated to raising cancer awareness among firefighters and the public nationwide. On November 19, 2009, while nearing the end of his second annual cross-country mission to raise awareness, Abundiz and his Code 3 fire engine stopped by Sacramento Metro Fire Station #29 to spread the word.

"As firefighters, we face a number of dangers on the job. But we often forget or ignore the potential long term threats to our health," says Abundiz. "Having now battled three different types of cancer and undergone over 250 cancer-related surgical procedures, I know the risks. Code 3 for the Cure was established to encourage firefighters to get cancer screenings before it's too

late."

Cancer affects everyone, and studies have shown that firefighters are being impacted at much higher frequencies due to the nature of their work. Cal EMA's own David Powell, himself a cancer survivor, was on hand Thursday to welcome "Code 3" to Sacramento.

"This is such a great opportunity to bring awareness to, not only firefighters, but all emergency responders that may not recognize the long term threats of the work they do," Powell said. "There is a tendency among us to try and be the tough guy and dismiss the warning signs, which is what can get us into trouble. Early detection is crucial."

The Cal EMA family has lost several of their own to cancer, including former OES Director Dallas Jones and former Fire Chief Neil Honeycutt.

With a mission to reach out and provide assistance and a support system to emergency responders living with cancer, Abundiz has been hitting the road with long time friend and colleague, John McKnight, in what has become an annual trip around the United States and

parts of Canada.

"This was initially going to be a one time thing when we first took the trip in 2008," said McKnight. "We were calling



Cal EMA's David Powell Abundiz with a photo for auction

firehouses looking for places that would let us speak and share our story. Then somewhere along the way, word got out and our phone started ringing off the hook. Suddenly stations were inviting us!"

When this year's tour concludes, Abundiz and McKnight will have traveled nearly 17,000 miles and visited fire stations in 122 cities. It seems Abundiz' message is getting through.

For more information about "Code 3 For A Cure", visit www.code3foracure.com

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our state emergency management plan is an effective response to any emergency incident".

The California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) was created January 2009 through AB 38, resulting in the merge of both the California Governor's Office of Emer-

gency Services and the Office of Homeland Security. Cal EMA is responsible for leading the state's emergency response and recovery to/from natural and man-made disasters, the proliferation of personal preparedness education and outreach and hazard mitigation. Cal EMA also oversees and distributes discretionary state and federal homeland security and prepar-

edness funds on behalf of the State of California.

More information about *Security Magazine* and detailed information about this year's rankings can be found at www.securitymagazine.com

More information about Cal EMA can be found at www.calema.ca.gov.



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Bettenhausen Appointed Secretary of The California Emergency Management

On Thursday, November 12, 2009 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the appointment of Matthew Bettenhausen as Secretary for the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA).

"As a valued member of my administration, Matt has played a key role in ensuring that we are prepared to protect Californians from potential emergencies and disaster situations," said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. "With his experience and capabilities, I am confident that Matt will continue to provide Californians with the highest levels of security, emergency preparedness, response and recovery."

Bettenhausen has served as Acting Secretary of Cal EMA since its conception, a result of the merging of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and the Office of Emergency Services into a single, streamlined cabinet-level agency in 2009, and previously served as the director of the Office of Homeland Security from 2005 to 2008. Prior to that, he served as the director of state and territorial coordination for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security from 2003 to 2005 and deputy governor for criminal justice and public safety and special counsel to the Governor of Illinois from 2000 to 2003. From 1987 to 2000, Bettenhausen was a federal prosecutor and served in several supervisory positions within the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago.

Bettenhausen serves as the elected chair of the National Governors Association's Homeland Security Advisors Council and elected co-chair of the National Homeland Security Consortium. He is a board member of the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, serves on the external advisory board to Sandia National Laboratory and is a member of the George Washington University Homeland Security Policy Institute's task force on radicalization and extremism. He was recently appointed by Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to serve on the Homeland Security Advisory System Task Force.

"It's an honor to work with the Governor and his administration to help ensure the safety of my fellow Californians," said Matthew Bettenhausen. "I will continue to work with the rest of our Cal EMA staff to provide our state with the highest level security and emergency readiness."

Thank You!

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David Powell

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